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Agenda item 64
COMPREHENSIVE NUCLEAR-TEST-BAN TREATY

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-third year

Identical letters dated 15 May 1998 from the Permanent Representative of New Zealand to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly and to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit to you the attached letter from the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade of New Zealand, the Right Honourable Don McKinnon, concerning the conduct of nuclear tests by India.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter together with its annex issued as a document of the General Assembly, under item 64, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Michael J. POWLES
Permanent Representative

98-13615 (E) 150598

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Annex

Letter dated 15 May 1998 from the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade of New Zealand concerning the conduct of nuclear tests by India

I am writing to record New Zealand's grave concerns about the testing of five nuclear devices by India. New Zealand condemns these tests, as we have condemned all nuclear testing in the past. We welcome the presidential statement from the Security Council strongly deploring the tests.

The Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in September 1996, has been signed by an overwhelming number of countries. This represents the culmination of years of effort by New Zealand and others to bring about an end to nuclear testing for all time. We are deeply disappointed that India, which has always professed its commitment to nuclear disarmament, has failed to live up to these ideals. We call upon India unconditionally to sign and ratify the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty and the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.

New Zealand also appeals to India's neighbours to remain calm in response to these events. It is imperative that there should be no further steps which might weaken the international norm against nuclear testing. We accordingly urge all States that have not yet done so to sign the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty without delay.

These events must not be allowed to set back the nuclear disarmament process. It is vital that we continue to move forward towards the elimination of nuclear weapons.

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